

Ad-Hoc Sign Bylaw Review Committee Meeting
January 12, 2012 ~ 7:30pm
2nd Floor Conference Room, Town Hall

Attending:

Members: Jeff Cohen, Karen Kenney, Chris Laskey, Kevin Latady, John McColloch, Lisa Mustapich, Mark Siegenthaler, Ralph Zazula. Others: Rick Reed, Town Manager & Carol Amick, Citizen

Handouts: Agenda, legal opinion dated 7/21/03, "Legal Considerations – Sign Regulation"

7:40: Meeting called to order.

Rick Reed gave the group a brief explanation of the group's charge. The group discussed perceptions of signs and what we may consider. The committee is planned to last approximately 1 year and a zoning revision would be presented at Town Meeting March 2013. The group asked that Town Counsel review the existing Bylaw to guide required changes. The group agreed the "Discussion Points" on the agenda will be addressed. The group agreed it may be helpful to read other towns' sign bylaws for positive ideas. Chris will update the group by providing the Sign Bylaw in MS Word Track Changes format. Ralph will create a document repository using Gmail. All will need to create a Gmail account.

The group began with **Article 40.4, Section 2**. Historical Plaques are under "Special Consideration". "Off Site Signs" mounted on trees and poles are prohibited. "Directional Signs" are permitted. Laskey noted that the total dimension of 6 square ft signs in residential works. There has not been an issue of free standing signs being too close to property line. The group discussed requiring a permit for temporary signs. Temporary is defined as ...not more than 30 days in a calendar year...

The group discussed "Free Speech" versus "Commercial" signs. Also discussed illumination of Free Speech signs in residential. Agreed to put Free Speech" signs under **40.6 Special Considerations** and include definitions.

At a future meeting, the group will discuss the difference between a sign and a sculpture; the amount of discretion provided to the ZBA; and the advantages of the sign bylaw existing as a **General Bylaw** or part of the **Zoning Bylaws**.

Mustapich nominated Cohen for Chairman, Zazula seconded. Vote 7-0.
Mustapich nominated Latady for Clerk, Cohen seconded, Vote 7-0.

Carol Amick, garden club member, spoke of the garden club's desire to follow the bylaw, but at same time advertise the annual geranium sale. She recommended adding parameters to **40.6.H**.

All future meetings will begin @ 730 PM. Next meetings will be 16 Feb, 15 Mar, 19 Apr, 17 May, 21 Jun, 19 Jul, 16 Aug, and 20 Sept.

The group agreed to publicize meetings to gain public input prior to Mar 2013 TM. It's important to get feedback and agreement prior to TM, or the group's efforts will have been fruitless.

9:59 Adjourn. Mustapich moved, Latady seconded. Vote 7-0.

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